

# Controlling Mosquitoes Outside

*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[Mr. Hubbard] Looks like it's officially mosquito season. I have so much to do!

[Laura] Hello, Mr. Hubbard!

[Mr. Hubbard] Good afternoon, Laura. Are you and the kids enjoying this beautiful day?

[Laura] Yes! What are you doing?

[Mr. Hubbard] I'm trying to get rid of the mosquitoes in my back yard.

[Laura] Why?

[Mr. Hubbard] I've been reading about how to get rid of mosquitoes that carry viruses and pass them on to people. This is one of the many things that can help.

[Laura] Oh? What's that?

[Mr. Hubbard] Well, this is an EPA-registered larvicide called a dunk. It kills young mosquitoes. I'm going to put them in my fountain.

[Laura] Why?

[Mr. Hubbard] Well, I've read that you need to put these in standing water that you can't empty because mosquitoes breed in standing water. They can carry viruses like West Nile, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. When an infected mosquito bites someone, it can give them the virus.

[Laura] I know it's mosquito season and that mosquitoes can carry viruses, but I've never known anyone who got West Nile, or any of those other viruses.

[Mr. Hubbard] Mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus live all over the United States. Mosquitoes that carry Zika and other viruses live in some places, but not all areas of the U.S. Since most people can't tell the difference between mosquito types, it's really important that we all do our part to prevent these viruses by protecting ourselves and our families from mosquito bites.

[Laura] I agree! What can I do to help? How can I protect my family?

[Mr. Hubbard] Well, there's lots of things you can do in and around your home to help control mosquitoes.

[Laura] Like what?

[Mr. Hubbard] Mosquitoes need water to lay their eggs. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, and trash containers. That way, mosquitoes won't have places to lay their eggs.

[Laura] That sounds easy enough. It looks like Brandon is back from running errands.

[Mr. Hubbard] Great! While you're outside, check your septic tank to make sure there aren't any cracks or gaps, and make sure open vents are covered.

[Laura] That's a good idea, I hadn't thought of that.

[Brandon] Hello, Mr. Hubbard. I see you're putting dunks in your fountain.

[Mr. Hubbard] That's right. I've been chatting with your wife about controlling mosquitoes outside.

[Brandon] Well that's great, but how do we protect ourselves indoors?

[Mr. Hubbard] I can certainly tell you all about that.

[Brandon] Great. Let's go talk at our place over a cup of coffee!

[Narrator] Tune in again for what happens next as Mr. Hubbard and the Smith family do their part to control mosquitoes.

*[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*